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**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF ALASKA**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA for the use of
NORTH STAR TERMINAL & STEVEDORE
COMPANY, d/b/a Northern Stevedoring &
Handling, and NORTH STAR TERMINAL &
STEVEDORE COMPANY, d/b/a Northern
Stevedoring & Handling, on its own behalf,

Plaintiffs,

and

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA for the use of
SHORESIDE PETROLEUM, INC., d/b/a Marathon
Fuel Services, and SHORESIDE PETROLEUM,
INC., d/b/a Marathon Fuel Services, on its own
behalf,

Intervening Plaintiffs,

and

METCO, INC.,

Intervening Plaintiff,

vs.

NUGGET CONSTRUCTION, INC.; SPENCER
ROCK PRODUCTS, INC.; UNITED STATES
FIDELITY AND GUARANTY COMPANY; and
ROBERT A. LAPORE,

Defendants.

Case No. 3:98-cv-009-HRH

**RESPONSE TO USF&G'S
REQUEST FOR ORAL
ARGUMENT
[Clerk's Docket No. 531]**

Plaintiff and Use Plaintiff North Star Terminal & Stevedore Company (“North Star”) responds to the Request for Oral Argument (Clerk’s Docket No. 531) filed by defendant United States Fidelity & Guaranty Company (“USF&G”), as follows.

It is in the Court’s discretion to determine whether oral argument is necessary. In the past month, the parties (mostly the defendants) have filed a dozen or so sizable dispositive motions and about 40 separate filings in relation to those motions, measuring about a half-foot thick and weighing several pounds. Briefing upon those motions is far from over. It is perhaps half over.

It is respectfully submitted that oral argument upon those motions, if ordered, be ordered as to all of the motions and only after they have been fully briefed and considered by the Court, rather than order oral argument in piecemeal fashion upon just one motion before the motions are fully briefed, as is sought by USF&G’s motion.

Dated at Anchorage, Alaska, on May 17, 2006.

s/ Michael W. Sewright
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on the 17th day of May, 2006, a
copy of the foregoing RESPONSE TO
USF&G'S REQUEST FOR ORAL
ARGUMENT was served electronically to:

Steven S. Shamburek, Esq.
Traeger Machetanz, Esq.
Paul D. Stockler
Herbert A. Viergutz
C. Patrick Stoll, Esq.

s/ Michael W. Sewright